

Application No.: 10/517,182
Amendment Dated: April 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of: February 9, 2007

MAT-8637US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 12-15 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 12 and 14 are amended and new claims 16-17 are added. No new matter is presented by the claim amendments and new claims. Support for the claims amendments and new claims can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in the original specification at page 16, lines 3-8.

Rejection of Claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, at item 2, claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman (U.S. Patent No. 7,043,532, hereafter referred to as Humpleman).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is directed to an electronic device configured to be used with an access device and a server device having operation information, and recites;

... an operation information transmission part which transmits the operation information at a request of the access device, the access device storing a server identifier of the server device and requesting a locator of the electronic device from the server device using the server identifier such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device.

That is, the access device requests the locator of the electronic device from the server device using the server identifier.

Humpleman Reference

Humpleman discloses that a Home Network Object Request Broker (HNORB) 79 and an Interface Library (IL) 80 provides a middleware layer 98 for the home network 10. The middleware layer 98 can be located in a third device 96 or in a separate control hub. The HNORB 79 includes a software agent for use by one device

14 to discover the existence of other devices 14 connected to the network 10. The HNORB software agent organizes device names into a naming hierarchical tree structure, organizes device interfaces into a searchable interface of the searchable IL and provides device interfaces to a device requesting interface information. (See Humpleman at col. 16, lines 27-39.) Thus, Humpleman discloses the use of a third device to obtain interface information. Humpleman further discloses that to locate the HNORB&IL (i.e., the Home Network Object Request Broker and Interface Library 79 and 80), a device 14 sends a broadcast message over a local home network. The first HNORB&IL to respond to the device 14 is utilized by the device 14. (See Humpleman at col. 16, lines 54-57.) That is, Humpleman discloses the use of a broadcast message to contact any HNORB&IL on the local home network 10.

Humpleman, however, is silent with regard to anything related to a server identifier and, furthermore, the storage of such an identifier in the device 14 (i.e., corresponding to the access device recited in claim 12 and furthermore, the use of the server identifier to request a locator address. This is because, the device 14 of Humpleman broadcasts to any HNORB&IL 79 and 80 and, thus, there is no need to include a server identifier in this message or to store any such server identifier. Instead, in Humpleman, the first HNORB&IL to respond to the device 14 is utilized by the device 14 to retrieve requested interface information (e.g., the HNORB passes a device interface to the device 14). See Humpleman at col. 16, line 65 to col. 17, line 2.)

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 12 patentably distinguishes over Humpleman for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claim 14

Claim 14, which includes similar but not identical features to those of claim 12, is also submitted to patentably distinguish over Humpleman for at least similar reasons to those of claim 12.

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Claims 13 and 15

Claims 13 and 15, which include all of the limitations of claim 12 or claim 14, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Humpleman for at least the same reason as those of claim 12 or claim 14.

New Claims 16 and 17

Claims 16 and 17, which include all of the limitations of claim 12 or claim 14 are also submitted to patentably distinguish over Humpleman for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Consideration and approval of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments, new claims and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 24, 2007

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